ANALYSIS OF 2025
USE OF FORCE

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL
SERVICE AND PROTECTION

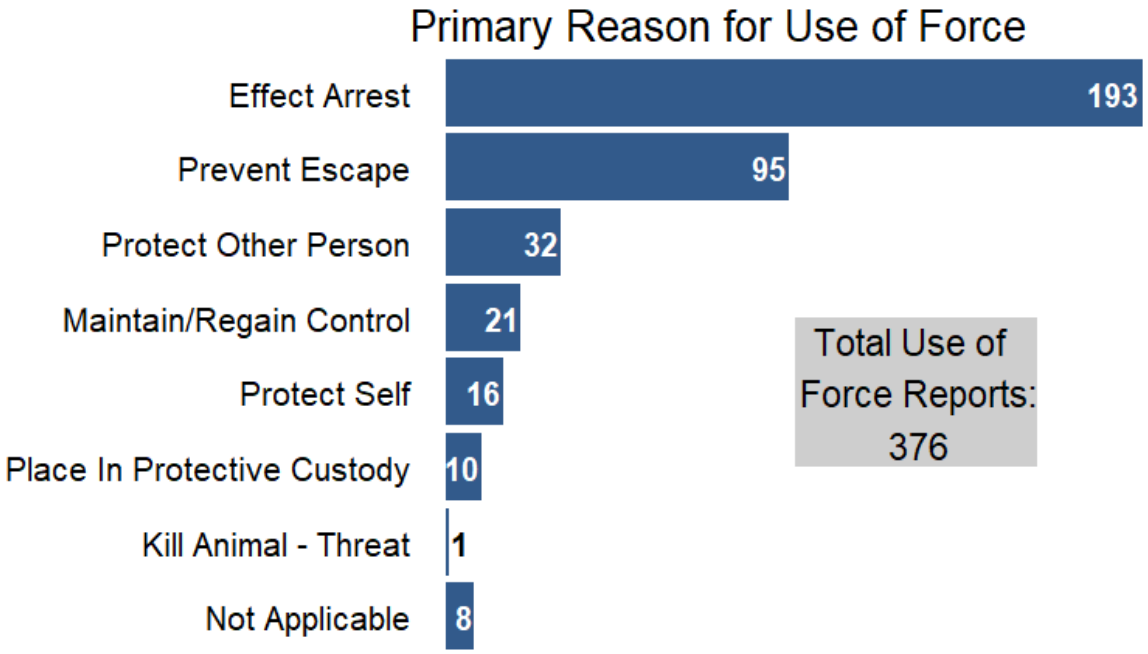
The Missouri State Highway Patrol is an equal opportunity employer.

Overview

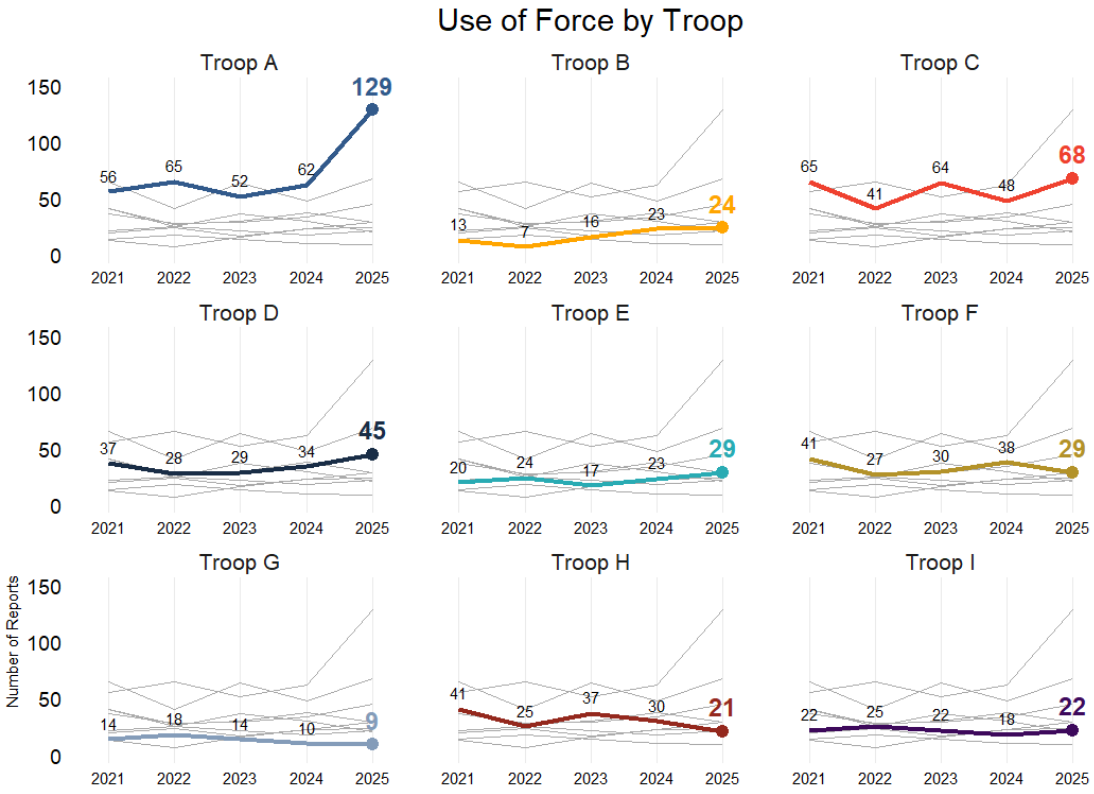
Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) use of force reporting occurs within the Automated Field Reporting (AFR) system, which ultimately culminates with the data represented herein. The Research and Development Division (RDD) analyzed information contained within use of force reports for calendar year 2025 and submits findings of that analysis in accordance with XVIII-C of General Order 01-04. In 2025, MSHP members responded to 272,144 calls for service, conducted 289,229 enforcement contacts, and completed 396 use of force reports. Of the 561,373 total contacts with the public, excluding tire deflation deployments, MSHP members were involved in 293 use of force incidents. Thus, use of force reports constitutes 0.05% of MSHP interactions with the public. The percentages shown on some of the following charts may not always total 100% due to statistical rounding. Trend comparisons are generally noted for the years 2021 through 2025.

Use of Force - Non-Gaming Officers

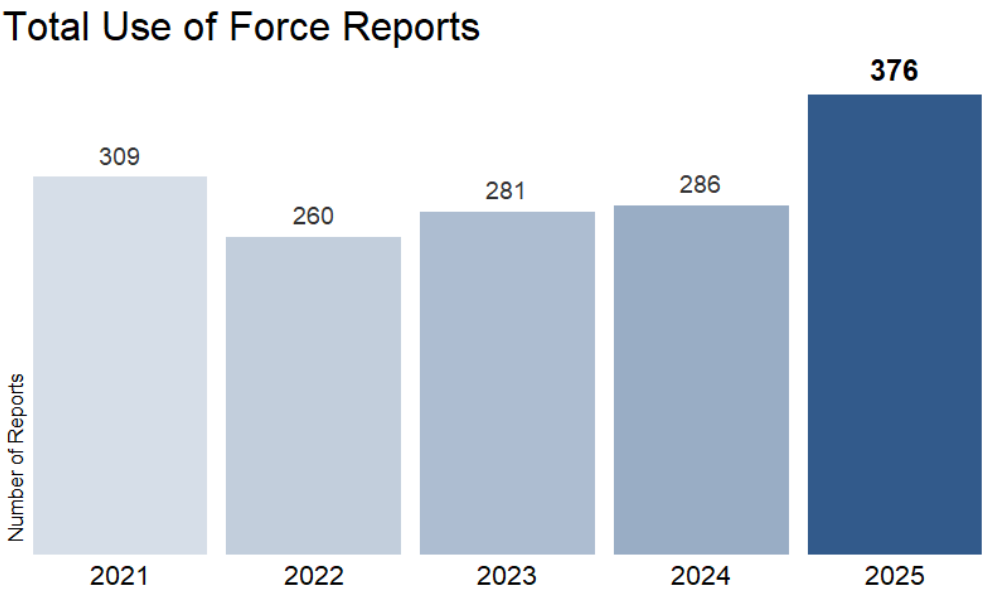
MSHP members not assigned to the Gaming Division submitted a total of 376 use of force reports in 2025, which reflects a 31.5% increase in use of force report submissions from the previous year. Of the 376 reports submitted, there were 332 use of force incidents, indicating multiple officers used force during the same incident. The 2025 numbers represented herein, do not reflect occurrences involving the humane killing of an animal or the anticipated use of force through the display of Electronic Control Weapons (ECWs). The primary reasons for the use of force are listed below.



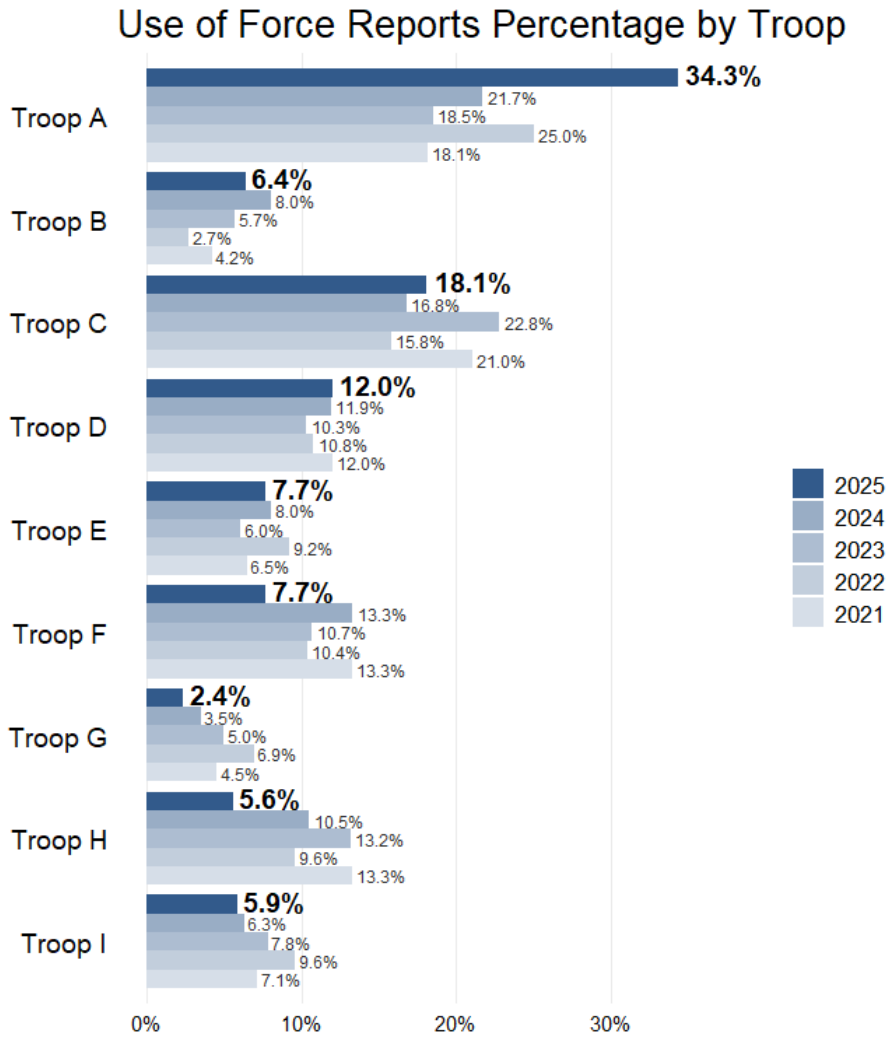
The following chart depicts use of force reports per location (troops) for calendar years 2021 through 2025, where the highlighted line signifies the focus troop's trend year over year and the gray lines signify the other troops for comparison. The totals include tire deflation device deployments and vehicular use of force occurrences.



The following chart provides representation of yearly statewide use of force occurrences.

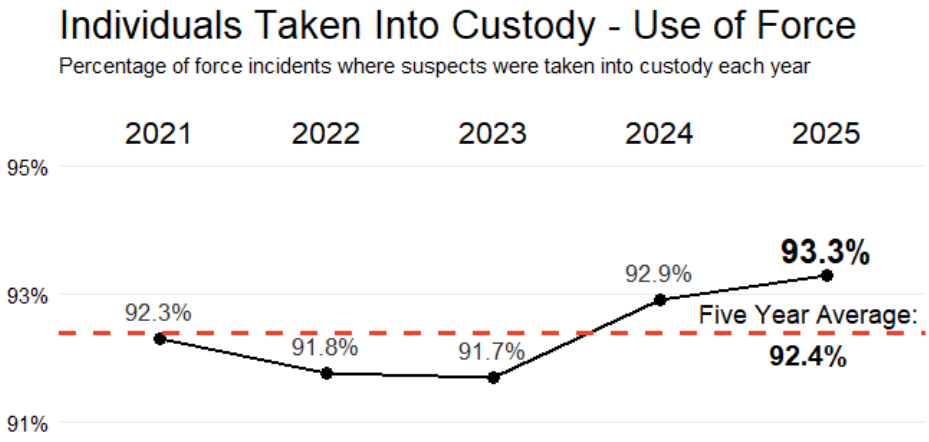


The accompanying chart on the next page illustrates the percentage of use of force reports within each troop for the period 2021 through 2025. Beginning in 2025, Tactical Vehicle Intervention (TVI) became an option for use of force. See additional information on the use of TVI in the following sections.



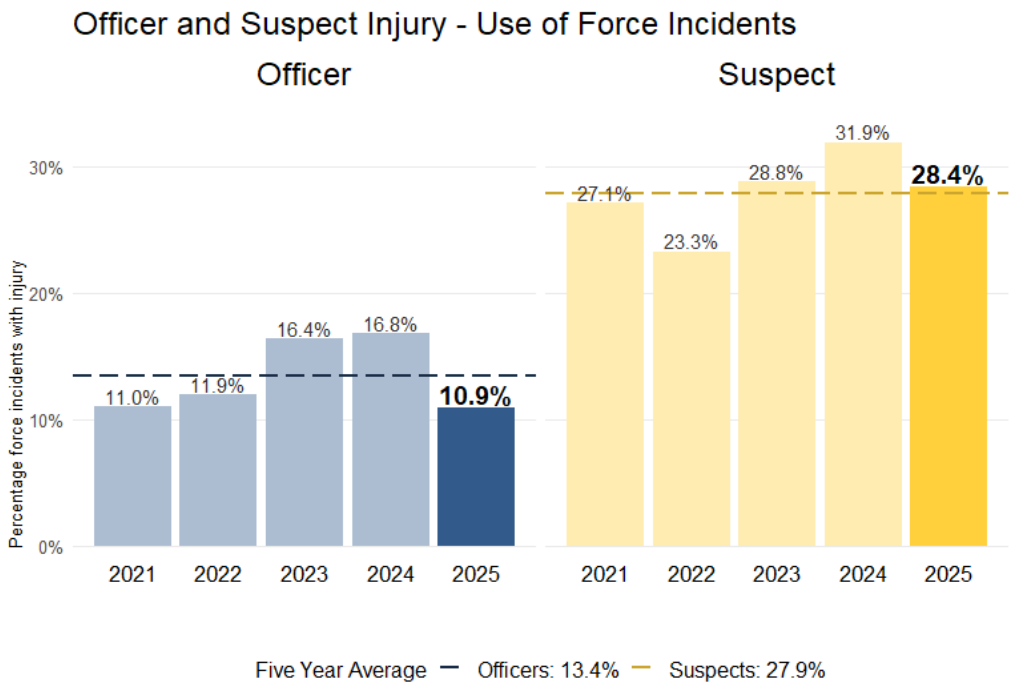
Use of Force - Effectiveness

The effectiveness of the force employed by Patrol officers to arrest suspects averaged 92.4% over the past five years. The chart below illustrates the percentage of individuals successfully taken into custody following incidents where force was used to apprehend resisting suspects. The effectiveness of force methods employed by officers in 2025 was 93.3%.



Use of Force - Officer and Suspect Injury Rates

About 10.9% of Patrol officers using force were injured during use of force incidents in 2025. No Patrol officer was killed in 2025 because of force used by an assailant. The suspect injury rate in 2025 was 28.4% with a five-year average of 27.9%. In 2025, three suspects were killed during use of force incidents (two in Troop A and one in Troop E).



Other Factors

Body Armor

General Order 41-02 mandates the wearing of ballistic vests by uniformed officers assigned to enforcement activities. In 2025, 28 officers reported that wearing a ballistic vest did aid in the prevention or reduction of injury during use of force incidents.

Member Characteristics

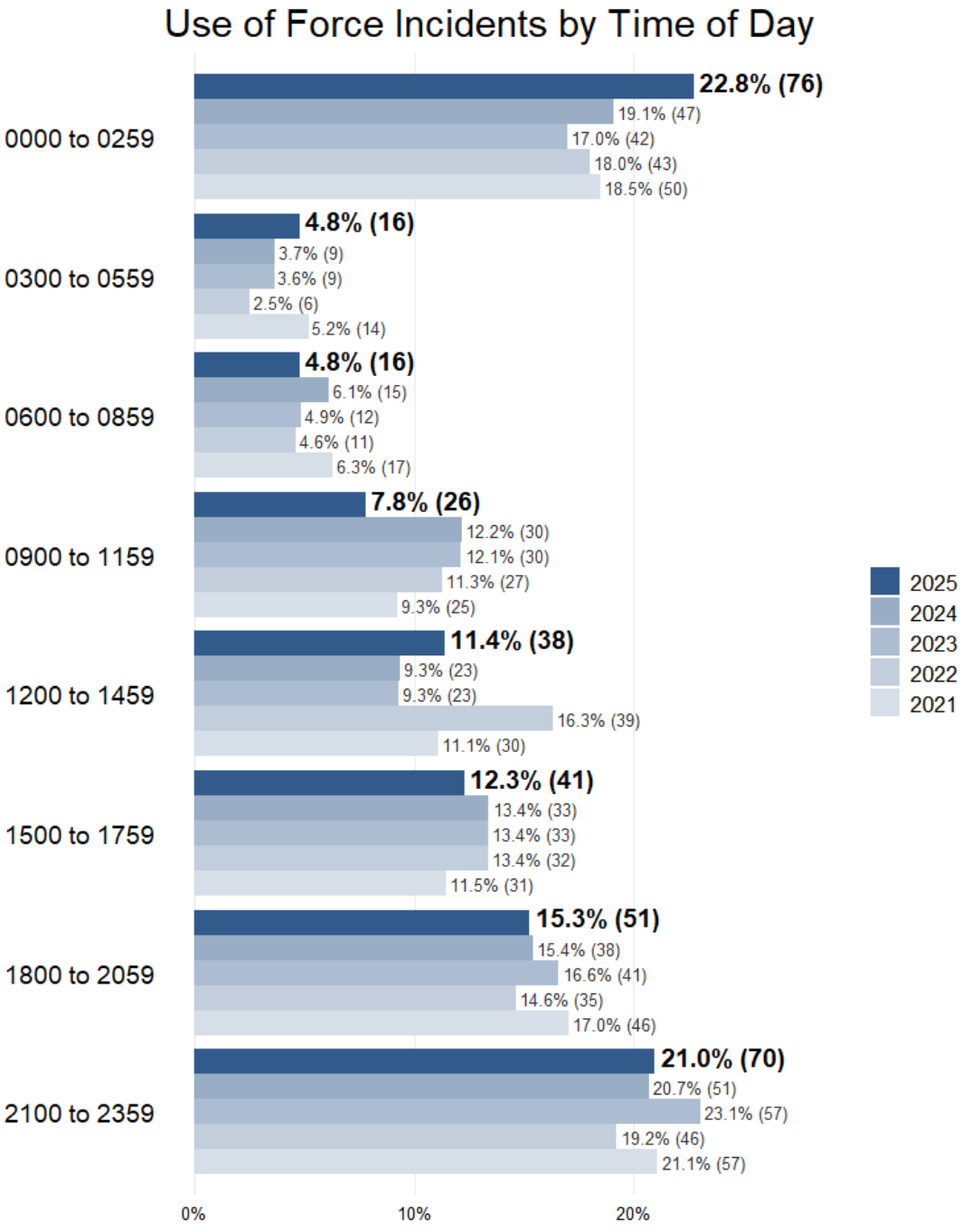
The average age of officers involved in use of force incidents during 2025 was 33.4 years old, while the average years of service was 8.2 years. These numbers have remained consistent over the past five years.

Incidents by Time of Day, Day of Week, Month

The following sections analyze use of force incidents by time of day, day of week, and month of the year. In three 2025 incidents, MSHP members indicated different times on their reports. Thus, the total number of incidents in the following charts may be greater than the 332 unique incidents that occurred in 2025.

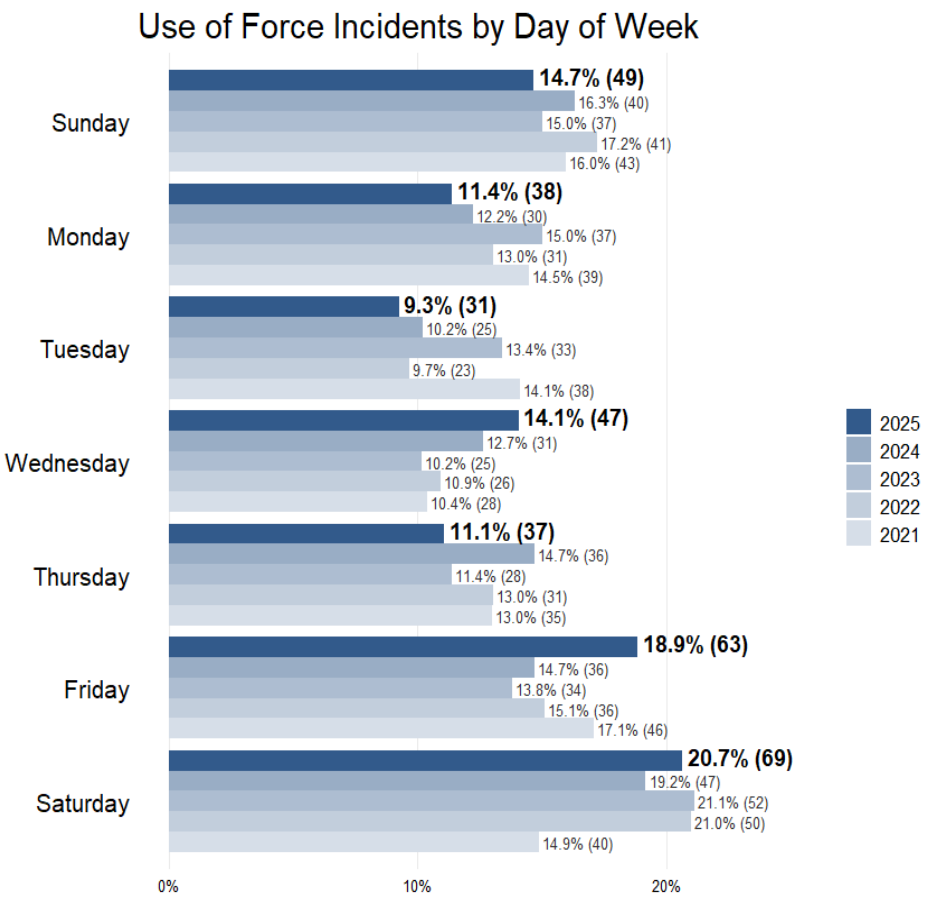
Incidents by Time of Day

During 2025, use of force incidents were most likely to have occurred during the 0000 to 0259 time-period. The least amount of force incidents occurred during the 0300 to 0559 and 0600 to 0859 time-periods.



Incidents by Day of Week

Analysis of 2025 use of force incidents, which occurred throughout the week revealed most incidents took place on Saturday. The least amount of force incidents occurred on Tuesday.

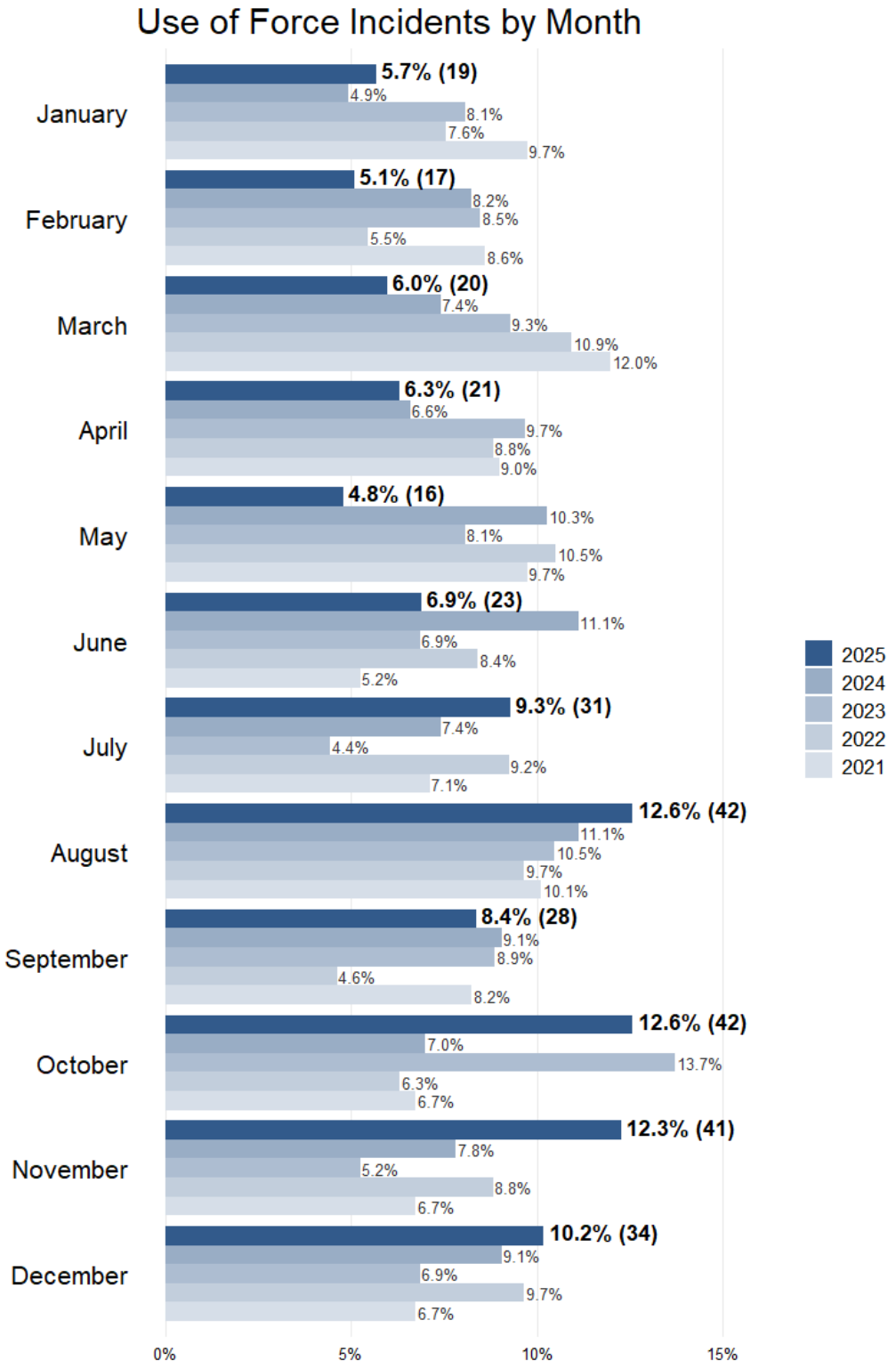


Incidents by Month

Analysis of 2025 use of force incidents reported by month did not reveal a seasonal trend. As the table below shows, August and October had the highest number of incidents with 42. And May and February with the fewest incidents with 16 and 17 respectively.

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
January	26	18	20	12	19
February	23	13	21	20	17
March	32	26	23	18	20
April	24	21	24	16	21
May	26	25	20	25	16
June	14	20	17	27	23
July	19	22	11	18	31
August	27	23	26	27	42
September	22	11	22	22	28

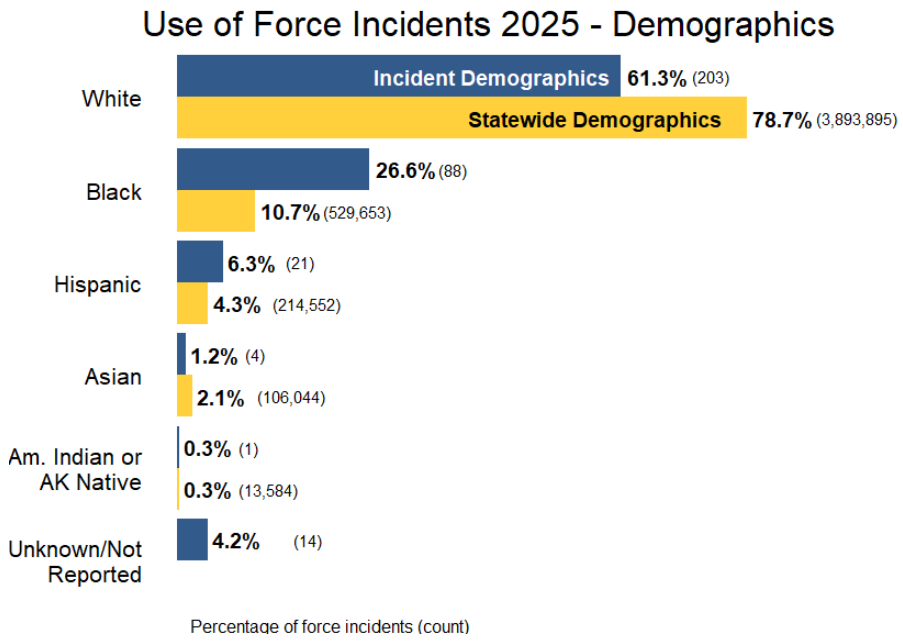
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
October	18	15	34	17	42
November	18	21	13	19	41
December	18	23	17	22	34



Activities and Trends

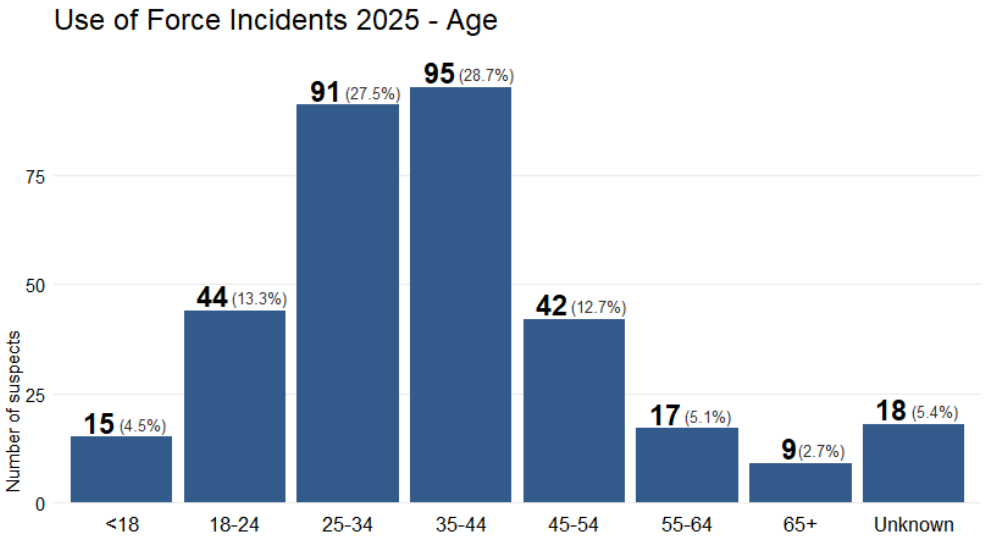
Demographics

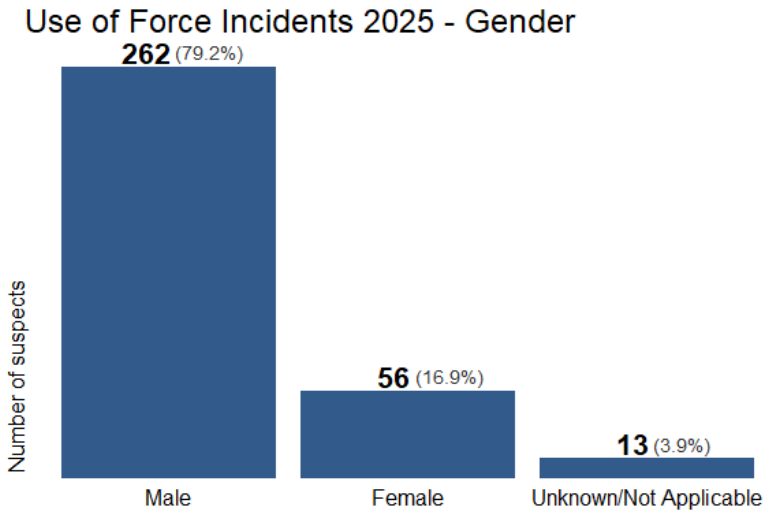
MSHP use of force suspects for this reporting period were analyzed to determine demographic trends. The below table and accompanying graph on the next page illustrate combined annual demographic comparisons by race for applicable agency use of force incidents reported during 2025. The statewide demographics were taken from the April 28, 2025, population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau.



Age and Gender

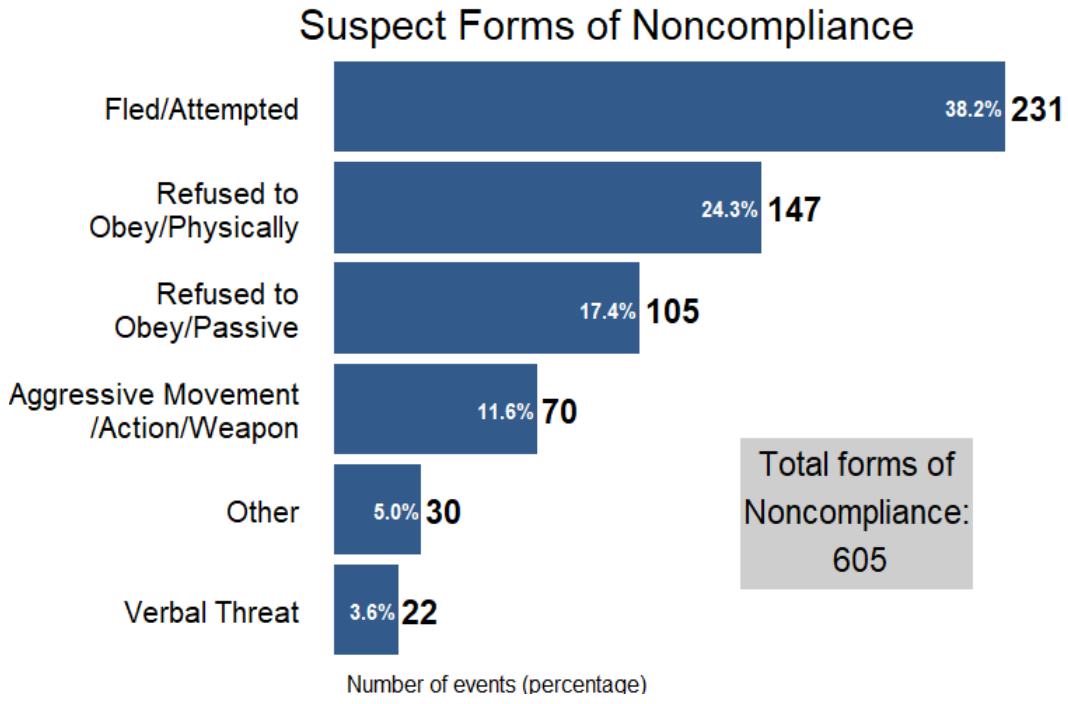
In 2025 there were 18 unknown ages and 13 unknown/not applicable genders, this is largely because MSHP considers tire deflation device deployments as a use of force and not every deployment is successful or results in an arrest.





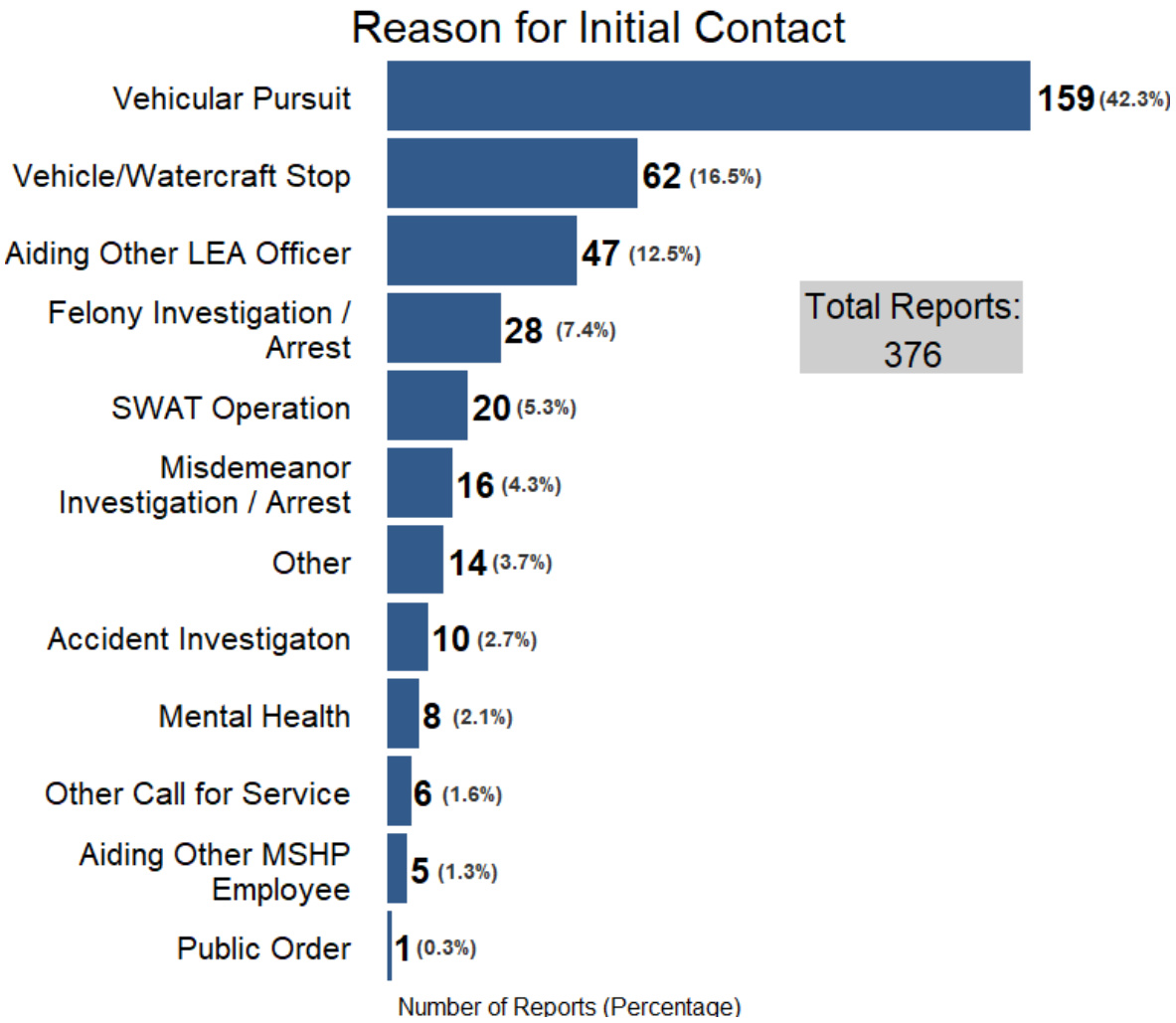
Suspect Noncompliance

The 376 use of force reports by road officers included 605 collective forms of resistance by suspects. It is important to note officers can indicate multiple forms of resistance for each suspect involved in a use of force incident.



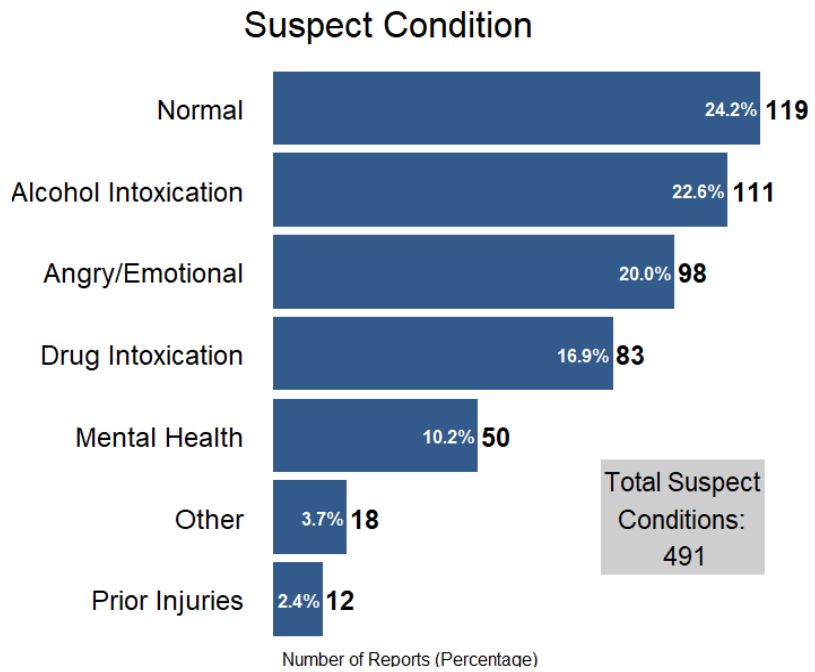
Reasons for Initial Contact

During 2025, vehicular pursuits were the leading reason for initial contact when a use of force incident occurred (42.3%) coupled with vehicle/watercraft stop (16.5%).



Suspect Characteristics and Conditions

For 2025, the average reported height and weight of suspects was 69.5 inches and 179.1 pounds. Force was used against ten juveniles in 2025 (reflecting 2.7% of all use of force incidents). The 376 use of force reports by road officers included 491 collective conditions exhibited by suspects. It is important to note that suspects may exhibit multiple conditions.

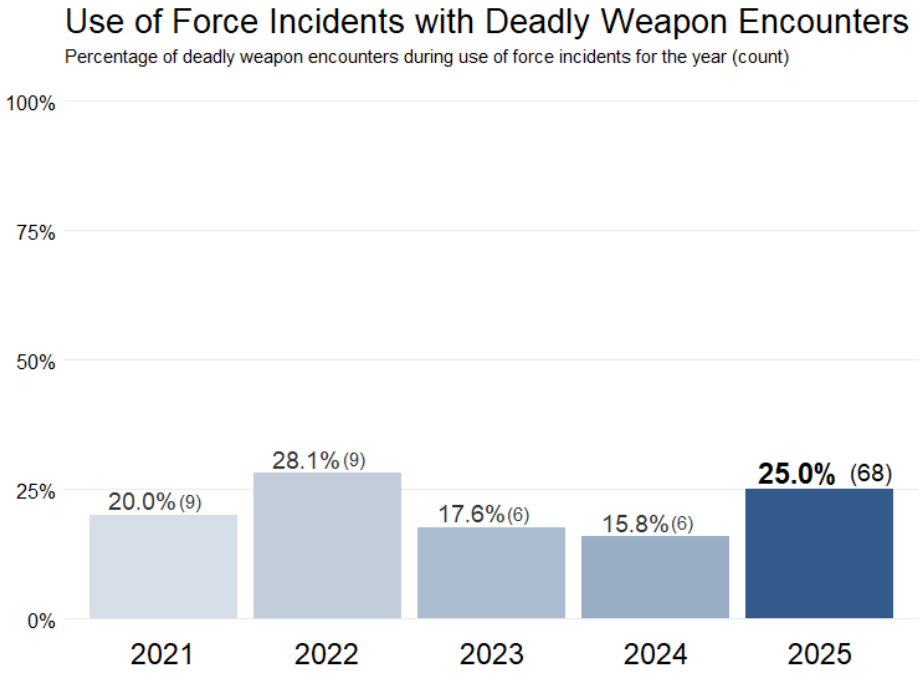


Multiple suspects were encountered in 9.3% of all force encounters occurring in 2025.

Suspect Weapon Usage

Consistent with previous years, most officers were confronted by unarmed suspects. Suspects applied one or multiple types of force against officers in 81 incidents during 2025. Suspects used their hands and feet 17.2% of the time and their knees/elbows/body 3.7% of the time.

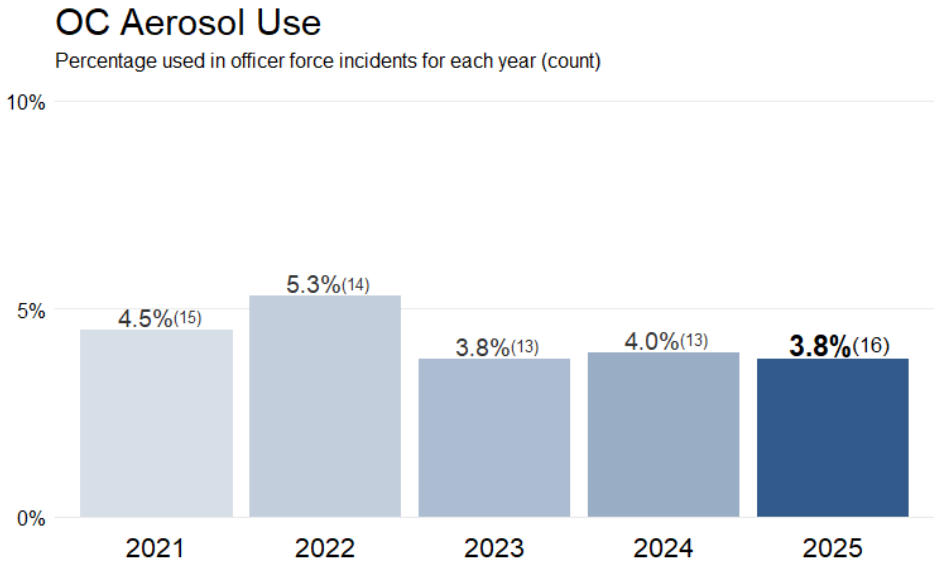
During 2025, there were 10 motor vehicle incidents (2.5%) used as a weapon by suspects. In addition, in 2025, 17 of the 68 suspects (25.0%) who possessed edged weapons or firearms used them as a weapon. The chart below illustrates deadly weapon use for the past five years.

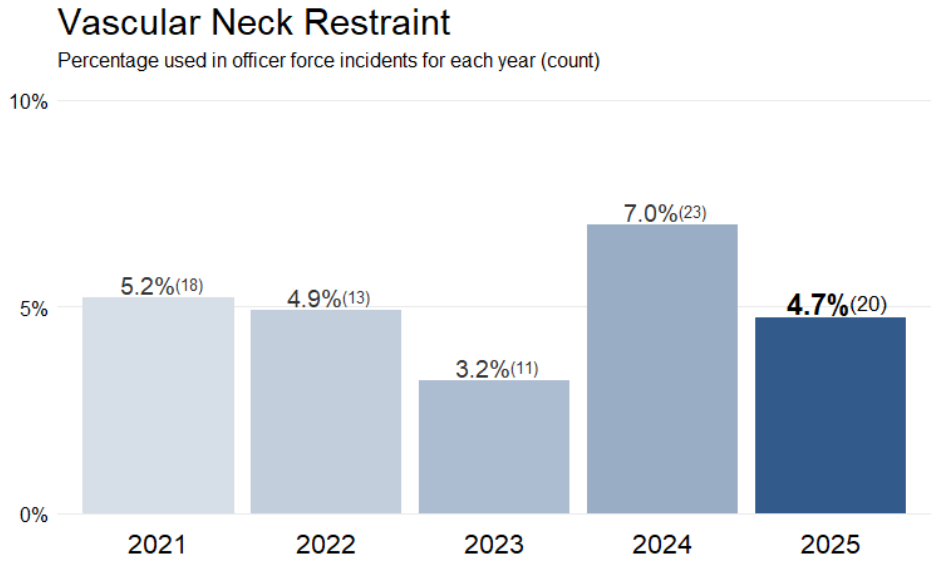


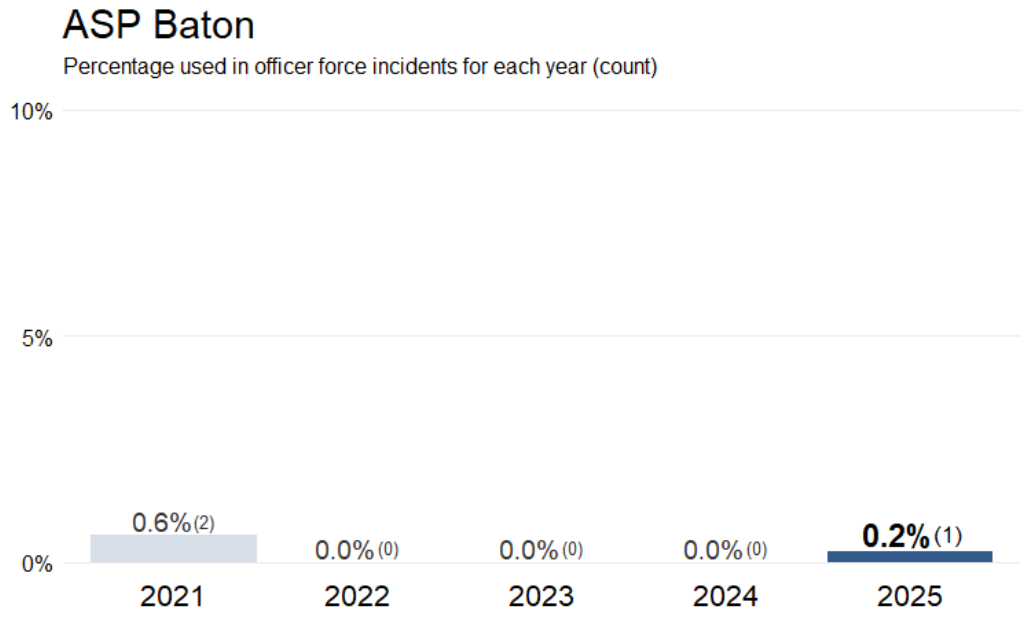
Method of Force Used by MSHP Officers

The most common force application used by officers during 2025 was bodily force, primarily through the process of grasping, wrestling, or pushing a suspect with their hands, feet, knee, elbow, and/or body; accounting for 39.7% of the use of force methods reported. Officers also used a control hold in 9.7% of the use of force methods reported, and pain-compliance holds in 3.1% of 2025 use of force methods. It is important to note officers can select more than one use of force method when reporting occurrences.

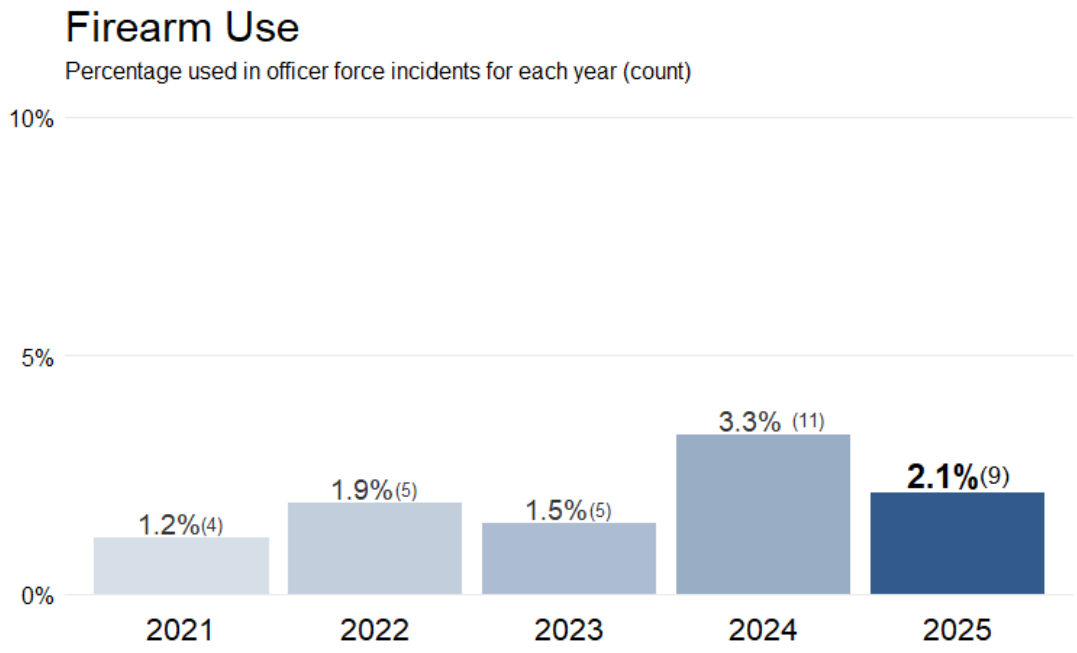
Use of oleoresin capsicum (OC) aerosol during 2025 accounted for 3.8% of use of force methods. The vascular neck restraint was used in 4.7% of all use of force methods during 2025. Finally, the ASP baton was used once as a force method in 2025.



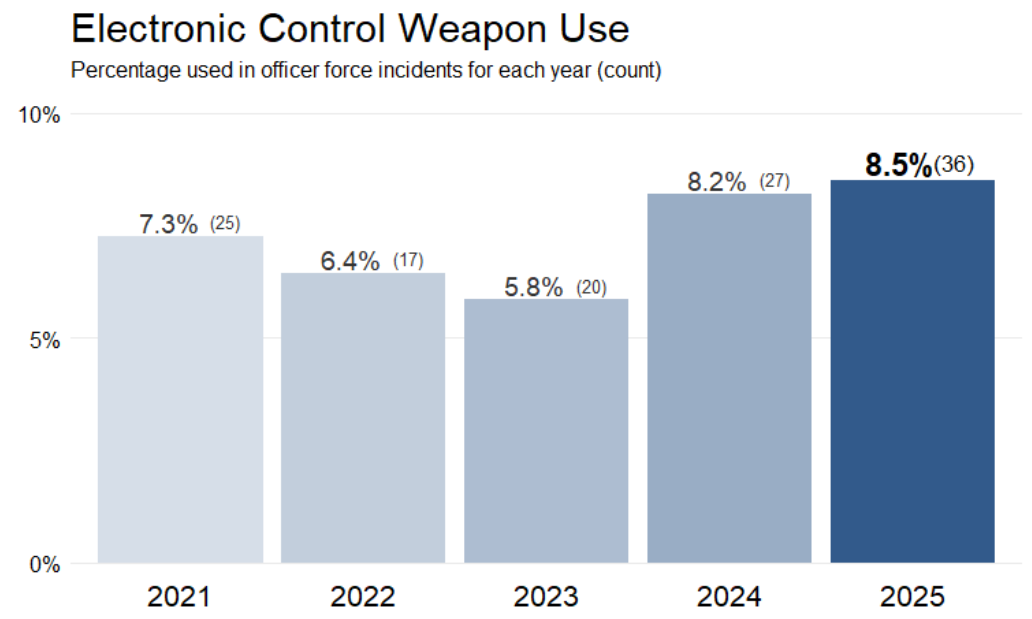


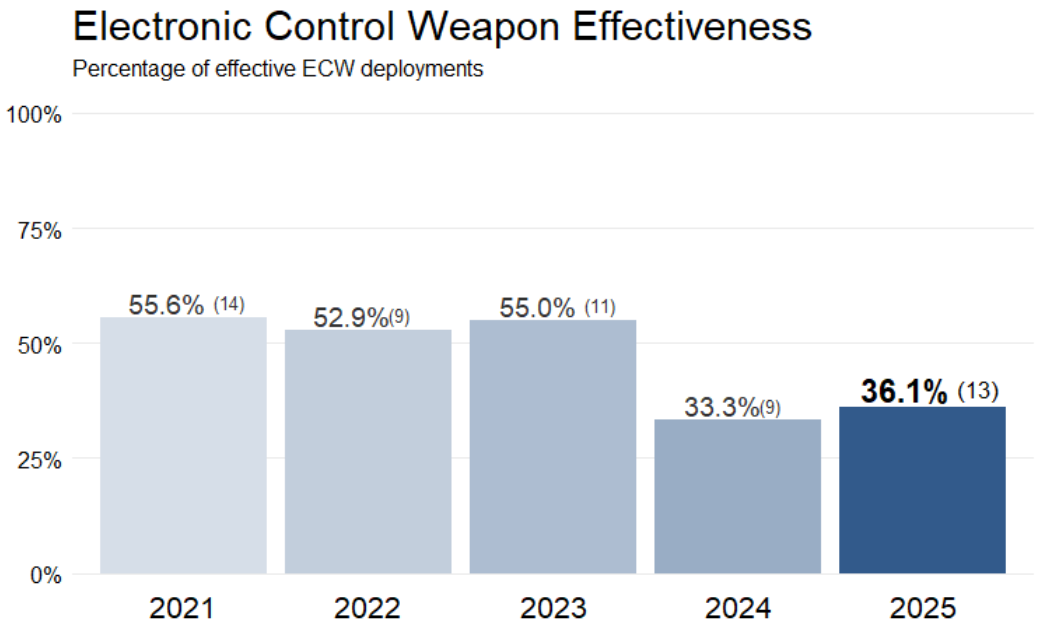


Officers used their firearms against suspects 9 times during 2025. The graph below depicts firearm discharges as a percentage of methods of force used against offenders by MSHP officers.



In 2025 officers used their Electronic Control Weapon (ECW) 36 times representing 8.5% of all use of force methods applied. The use of ECWs was effective 36.1% of the time in subduing the suspect.



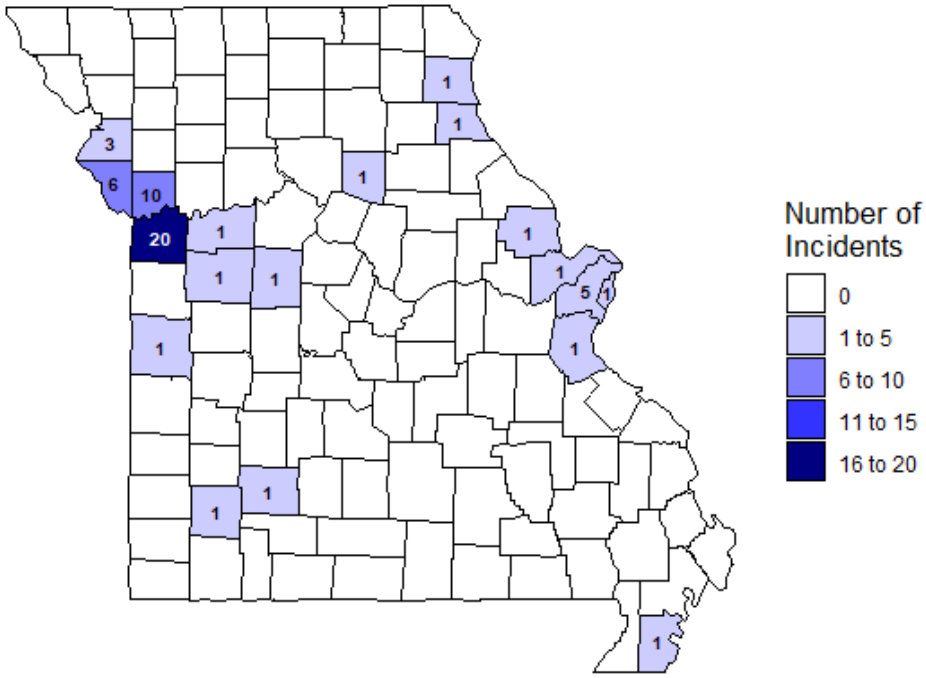


The use of force by vehicle category is utilized when a suspect vehicle is intentionally rammed or is forced to collide with a Patrol vehicle during a rolling roadblock maneuver. There were 23 incidents of vehicle force reported in 2025.

Tactical Vehicle Intervention (TVI), however, is a different method of force that officers can use to safely end a vehicular pursuit and minimize the risk of injury to the public, the member, and the suspect. This use of force option became available to MSHP officers in June of 2025 following the officer's certification and training in TVI.

In 2025, there were 58 incidents involving a TVI and of those incidents 70.7% were successful in stopping the vehicular pursuit. Troop A had the most TVIs with 40 and Jackson County had the most in the state with 20.

MSHP TVIs by County

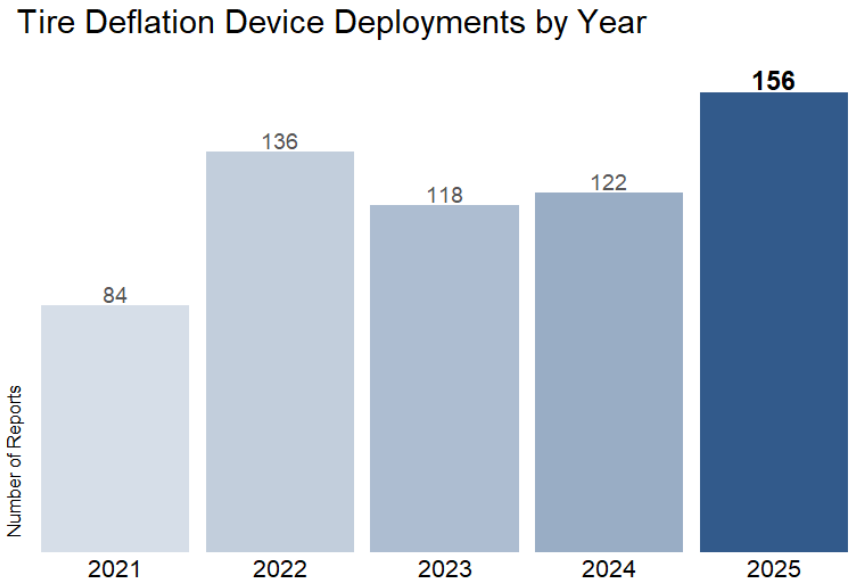


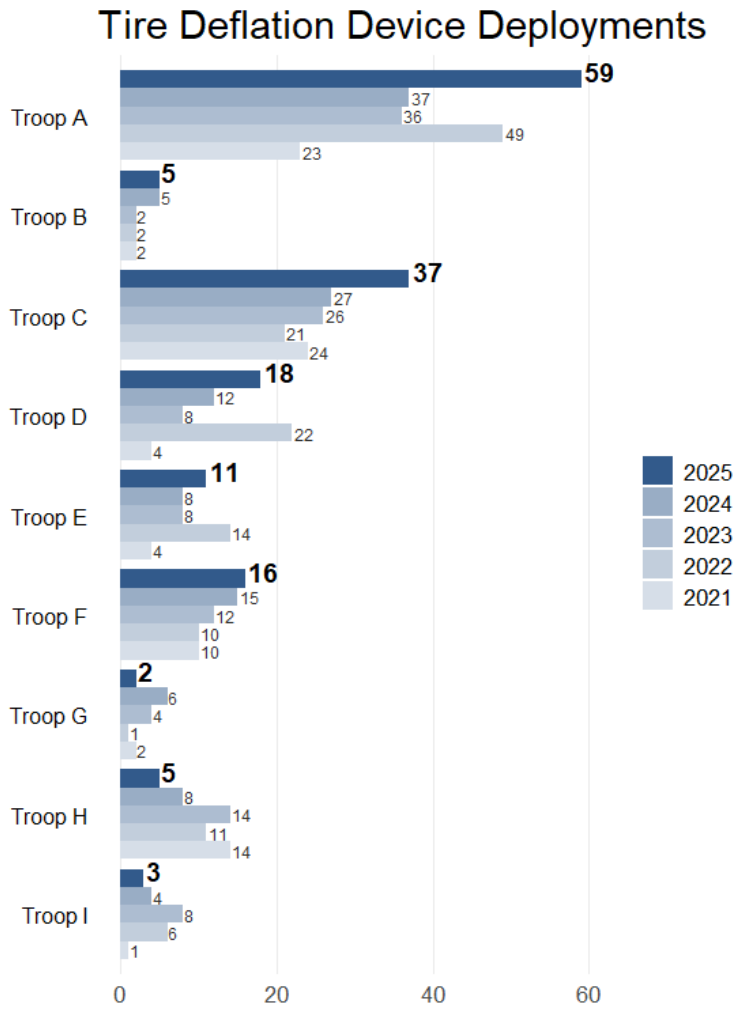
	Successful	Unsuccessful	Total
Troop A	28	12	40
Troop B	3	0	3
Troop C	6	3	9
Troop D	1	1	2
Troop E	1	0	1
Troop F	0	0	0
Troop G	0	0	0
Troop H	2	1	3
Troop I	0	0	0
Total	41	17	58

There were five minor injuries, one suspected serious injury, and one fatality to suspects involved in TVI incidents in 2025. Others involved in these incidents had two minor injuries.

Use of force reports were used to document tire deflation device deployments utilized for stopping vehicles pursued by both MSHP officers and by officers from other agencies. The following table illustrates the number of tire deflation device deployments occurring during use of force incidents within each troop for the past five years. The accompanying chart and bar graphs on the next page illustrate statewide tire deflation device deployments for the same period. Please refer to the Analysis of 2025 Pursuits publication for information regarding tire deflation device deployments occurring during pursuits.

*Beginning in 2022 we started recording ALL Tire Deflation Deployments as Use of Force deployments regardless of the report type





Use of Force - Gaming Division

During 2025 members assigned to the Gaming Division completed 20 use of force reports for 14 unique incidents, a 33.3% decrease from the previous year. In 2025, three ECW deployments occurred in gaming venues.